

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 121263  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03  
NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-12 /094 R

DRAFTED BY EUR:GSVEST:BLH  
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY  
S/S RCASTRODALE

-----079892 121432Z /45

R 120157Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
INFO USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T STATE 121263

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NAC, NATO

SUBJECT:NATO SUMMIT, MBFR, AND ALLIANCE INVOLVEMENT IN  
ARMS CONTROL

1. THE SECRETARY ASKED THE BRITISH CHARGE ON MAY 11 TO CON-  
VEY TO DAVID OWEN HIS RESPONSE TO THE SUGGESTIONS IN OWEN'S  
RECENT LETTER PROPOSING THAT IN THE SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE: (1)  
THE ALLIES SHOULD OFFER TO RAISE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS TO THE  
FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER AND (2) THE  
ALLIANCE SHOULD BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN DISCUSSION OF ARMS  
CONTROL SUBJECTS IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING MBFR AND SALT  
CONSULTATIONS.

2. ON THE FIRST PROPOSAL THE SECRETARY SAID THAT IN  
PRINCIPLE THE IDEA IS A SOUND ONE. HOWEVER, WE NEED TO BE  
VERY CAREFUL ABOUT THE TIMING OF SUCH A MOVE. IT WOULD  
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BE A MISTAKE TO SET AN EXACT DATE IN ADVANCE. WE SHOULD  
TAKE THE POSITION THAT IF WE SEE SUFFICIENT RESPONSE FROM  
THE SOVIETS TO THE DATA EXCHANGE AND THE WESTERN INITIATIVE  
RECENTLY TABLED IN VIENNA, THEN WE SHOULD BE READY TO CON-  
SIDER RAISING THE DISCUSSION TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL. HOWEVER,  
THERE IS A DANGER OF SETTING A FIRM DATE WITHOUT ENSURING  
ADEQUATE PREPARATION; WE SHOULD NOT AROUSE EXPECTATIONS OF

PROGRESS WHICH IF UNFULFILLED COULD SET MBFR BACK. WE WILL

HAVE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS IF WE MAKE IT CLEAR WE WILL  
CONSIDER RAISING MBFR TO FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL IN PRIN-  
CIPLE BUT MAKE IT DEPENDENT ON SOVIET RESPONSIVENESS.  
OF COURSE, IF NAC REACHES A CLEAR ENOUGH POSITION IN  
PREPARING FOR THE SUMMIT, WE SHOULD INFORM THE SOVIETS  
WHAT WE PROPOSE TO SAY PUBLICLY SO THE SOVIETS WILL TAKE  
THE NEW OVERTURE SERIOUSLY RATHER THAN AS POSTURING.

3. ON THE SECOND PROPOSAL HE SUPPORTED IT IN PRINCIPLE  
ALSO, BUT THOUGHT THE ALLIANCE SHOULD MOVE RATHER CARE-  
FULLY INTO THIS FIELD. THE BEST APPROACH WOULD BE TO  
CHOOSE A TEST CASE AND SEE HOW IT GOES FROM THERE. THE  
MOST LOGICAL CASE MIGHT BE HOW WE PROCEED WITH ERW.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE BRITISH CHARGE THE  
SECRETARY SAID THAT THE BRITISH SHOULD ADVANCE THE MBFR  
IDEA THROUGH ITS NATO PERMREP IN THE NAC ON THE UNDER-  
STANDING THAT WE CAN CONSIDER A MINISTERIAL MEETING IF  
THERE IS A SUFFICIENT RESPONSE FROM THE SOVIETS. AS TO  
ERW, WE ARE STILL DOING OUR HOMEWORK. WE HAVE NOT COM-  
PLETED IT BUT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE AT LEAST A PRE-  
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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:EUR/RPM:LBRECKON

APPROVED BY:EUR/RPM:SJLEDOGAR

-----100355 141011Z /10

R 140450Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T STATE 121263

FOL STATE 121263 SENT ACTION LONDON INFO USNATO BONN  
MAY 12, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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SUMMIT. VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ALLIANCE, DISARMAMENT, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, COMMUNIQUEs, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE121263  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** GSVEST:BLH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** b033969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
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**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NATO SUMMIT, MBFR, AND ALLIANCE INVOLVEMENT IN ARMS CONTROL  
**TAGS:** MNUC, PARM, MILI, US, UK, NAC, NATO  
**To:** LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014